

Minutes from the Lowestoft Netball League Committee Meeting held on Monday 18th March 2019.

Present- Karen, Libby, Mel, Sharon, Kerri and Chantelle

Apologies- Nicola and Lynn.

1. Players complaints against umpires.

There have been several complaints made by players to committee members regarding the umpiring. If a team has a specific complaint there is a process to write into the committee (via email) and this will be addressed.

The Captain has the right to ask an umpire to clarify a rule. A player does not have the right to approach an umpire and ask her to look out for something specific they think another player is doing. This will not be tolerated.

The committee agreed that umpires would receive a small observation by those qualified to do so and feedback given both in general terms and individual 1-1, in order that they can improve their skill level. Umpires are expected to keep themselves up to date with current umpiring standards.

If Players would like a specific meeting on game rules, the committee will be happy to arrange as many rules have been updated over the past few years, but unfortunately players have not updated themselves.

2. 30 Sec injury time rule

Players need to be aware that when they call TIME for an injury, this does mean they need to leave the court. We as a league are not strict on timings and do not start a clock for the 30 secs. The umpire should ask the player why/if they need time (if not obvious and someone else has called it), in order to ascertain if they player really does need to go off.

Just because a player falls to the floor, it is not always necessary for other team members to shout TIME. This gives the umpire no choice but to start the process above. Even if you do not call time as the injured player but someone on your team does on your behalf (even if you did not want them to) then you will still have to go off.

We would encourage all players to take a few seconds after a tumble/stumble to ascertain if time is really required. Bearing in mind this is a contestable sport now. As a league do we want to vote in at

the AGM for players not to go off court when time is called and that the player has 30 seconds before they decide whether they need to leave the court?

3. Scorers

Scorers are there to do an important job. The scorers must stand together and decide who is going to call the score for each quarter. The score must be called loudly so all teams can hear. The two scorers should check constantly that they both have the same score. When the timer is on 10 seconds one of the scorers is to proceed to nearest umpire and let them know. Please do not bring friends and sit and talk as this has caused several issues with regards to the scorers recording the wrong scores.

4. Two Umpires per team

Development plan- By 2021 each team in the league must have 2 qualified umpires (Into & Above), to alleviate pressure when umpires are sick/holiday/shift work etc.

As some teams only have one umpire when they are not available this puts pressure on other teams to provide extra umpires as well as scorers eg some teams are providing 3, 4 or 5 members of their team each week to cover umpiring/scoring. For example sirens have 3 umpires out umpiring, 1 trainee umpire being mentored, whilst still having to provide scorers. That's 5 people from one team compared to other teams who only provide 2 players a week.

When Karen and Libby did the umpiring winter fixtures for the 2018 /2019 we had 14 umpires available to cover the umpiring. 4 teams provided 9 out of those 14 umpires. That left 10 teams with the remaining 5 umpires. There are exceptions when umpires leave/move away etc (as per now) but teams need to show that they are willing to resolve this by putting someone forward for the next course.

Stage 1- The league would like to train up two more mentors/have two volunteers to go on a mentoring course. They have to be a C umpire or above.

Stage 2- by 2021 all teams to have two umpires. The committee will identify which teams fall short of this requirement. The committee will then contact them and ask the team to put someone forward to do an "Into officiating" course.

5. Umpires used exclusively for Team listed

Teams entering the league have to name a qualified umpire that supports the team in the league. This umpire will need to be available either before or after the team's game. They cannot be named by one team and play for another as this makes the umpiring fixtures difficult. If you can't umpire for any reason it is your responsibility to find your own replacement and have it cleared by Libby. It is not Libby's job to sort it for you.

6. Tournament

Are teams interested in having a tournament? If yes, please let the committee know - what you'd like, when, how you see it would be run etc, and what help you are prepared to give. The committee

suggested that players could enter as individuals (not with their teams) and that teams are created from the players who have entered prior to the tournament. The players would be separated into playing positions and then drawn out of a hat.

7. Summer Season

How many teams do we have entering? How would you like it run as there may not be enough weeks for a round robin?

It was suggested that we make the summer league more fun. One suggestion was that we did "Bibs in Bags", however for injured/restricted players they would swap between GK and GS. Before the match umpires would supervise this process and players could not change until half time when the process would be repeated. The "Bibs in Bags" idea would also run alongside the handicap of +3. Division two teams could just do the handicap and not the bibs in bags or they could do both.

8. Come and Try days/session.

Any mothers with daughters of 13+ - come along for a game.

Possibly bring your husband/boyfriend/sons too.

9. Prizes

Would teams prefer not to have winners money and therefore league costs would be slightly lower?